

## Judges 14:1-5 - Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013

(1) Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. (2) So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife."  
- Here, just in the first two verses, we're already off to a horrible start this because it appears that Samson has experienced lust at first sight.  
- Not only were the Jews never to marry Philistines, they had to have their parents blessing, in that, marriages back then were pre-arranged.  
- Notice how that Samson doesn't ask for his parents blessing concerning this Philistine woman, rather he demands that they get her for him.

- The reason that I point this out is because it will be germane to our understanding of who Samson is, or perhaps better said, who he's not.  
- By that I mean, while Samson may have been supernaturally strong physically, he was the antithesis of that strength spiritually and morally.  
- It's for this reason that, by the Holy Spirit, we can learn numerous life lessons from Samson's life, such that we can learn from his downfall.

Charles Spurgeon - "Thus the history of this strongest of men begins with an act of weakness; and his whole life is marred by faults in the same direction. An unusually developed animal nature rendered him the easy victim of his passions: if any of us were as vigorous as he, we should probably be even more ready to yield to the temptations, which ensnared him. His faith in God was his peculiar virtue; in this, few, if any, of the saints excelled him; but his peculiar physical conformation left an unguarded point in his character, and that proved his downfall."

- Suffice it to say, we have his first mistakes right out of the shoot in verses one and two, the first of which is that he lusted after this woman.  
- His second mistake is that he has no regard for being "unequally yoked," as it were, in the sense that he is a Jew, and she is a Philistine.  
- His third mistake is that he has no regard as it relates to honoring his mother and father by virtue of how he doesn't seek their blessing.

This reminds me of a famous quote by Mark Twain, who of this said; "When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years."

- His fourth mistake is that he's the one who "found a woman." In other words, it was not the Lord who "found a woman," for him instead.  
- If you were to ask me what I thought was one of the biggest mistakes young people make in seeking a mate, this would have to be it.  
- Sadly, many a young adult makes the second most important decision of their lives on the basis of the outward appearance not the heart.

Charles Spurgeon - "It must always be grievous to right-minded parents to see their children marrying ungodly persons. No good can possibly come of it. It is most injurious to the soul, and generally leads to heart-rending trials. Surely there are good people enough in the church of God without our looking to the synagogue of Satan for a spouse."

(3) Then his father and mother said to him, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" And Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she pleases me well."  
- Here we have another mistake we can learn from in that he not only doesn't respect his parent's authority, he doesn't respect God's either.  
- Actually, there's more here than meets the eye when it comes to having no respect for those who are in a position of authority over us.  
- Let me explain, when, early on, one fails to learn to respect authority in the earthly arena, they're not likely to learn it in the heavenly arena.

**Romans 13:1-7 NIV** Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. (2) Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. (3) For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. (4) For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. (5) Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. (6) This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. (7) Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

**Ephesians 6:1-3 NIV** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— (3) "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

- This passage begs the question of, "why it is that obeying this, of all the commandments, will lead to a long, blessed, and a fulfilled life?"  
- One commentator has suggested that back then, dishonoring your parents was so serious that any child who did it would be put to death.  
- I would suggest to you that there are two reasons for this, first there's a spiritual reason, and second, there's a physiological reason for this.

- Like Jesus, Who was one with the Father spiritually, so too are we spiritually connected to, and reflective of both our father and our mother.  
- If we disobey and dishonor our parents, we are in fact tearing ourselves down, because of our spiritual reflection and connection to them.  
- Jesus Himself speaks of this very connection when the Jews began trying harder to kill Him because He was calling God His own Father.

**John 5:19-23 NIV** Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. (20) For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. (21) For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. (22) Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, (23) that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

- Just as there is a spiritual connection, so too is there a physical, an emotional, and a physiological connection genetically to our parents.  
- When we dishonor them, we dishonor ourselves, and it takes its toll on us, and it will negatively impact the quality and length of our lives.  
- One has to look no further than to the ruined lives of those who dishonored and disrespected their parents to their own peril, even to death.

- Having said that, I think I would be grossly remiss were I not to delineate between respecting and honoring as we saw in Romans 13:7.
- However, first, I must answer a very important question, as it's one for which is the source of much confusion and misunderstanding.
- I'm speaking of the question concerning a parent, who is abusing a child. The question being, "are they required to obey and honor them?"

- The short answer is, "absolutely not!" It is never OK for a parent to abuse a child physically, nor is it ever OK to abuse a child emotionally.
- Furthermore, a child should not obey a parent if it would mean that they would be forced to disobey God, as God is the higher authority.
- Herein lies the distinction between honoring and respecting those who're in authority over me; simply put, honor is given, respect is earned.

(4) But his father and mother did not know that it was of the LORD—that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines. For at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that at first glance it almost seems as if God is complicit with all of this.
- In other words, God is giving his approval to them for Samson marrying a Philistine woman, and is sort of making an exception this time.
- Please know that's absolutely not the case. What God is doing here is to, in effect, overwhelm this act of disobedience and work it for good.

Charles Spurgeon - "They were not aware that God intended to over-rule this to force him into antagonism with the oppressors of his country."

Romans 8:28 NIV And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Genesis 50:20 NKJV But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.

Psalms 76:10 KJV Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.

(5) So Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came to the vineyards of Timnah. Now *to his* surprise, a young lion *came* roaring against him.

- Here again we have yet another series of mistakes that we can learn from. Notice first that he is in a vineyard. What's he doing there?
- He's a Nazirite from the womb to the tomb, and as such he's never to be anywhere near a vineyard where there is sure to be found grapes.
- Notice also that it's in such a place that, "to his surprise, a young lion came roaring against him." You might say he's in Satan's backyard.

1 Peter 5:8 NIV Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

- Perhaps you'll indulge me for a little while as I draw some comparisons between Samson here in the Old Testament and Peter in the new.
- I can't help but notice that there are some striking similarities between these two men in the progression that ultimately led to their downfall.
- Both of these men made a series of seemingly nebulous mistakes along the way, but collectively, it would all lead to their failing and falling.

Luke 22:31-32 NIV "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. (32) But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

- This is perhaps one of the most chilling and sobering passages in the entire Bible, as it relates to what comes against us as believers.
- Jesus is forewarning Peter, even praying for Peter, because of the satanic attack that is coming his way in his greatest area of strength.
- Notice Jesus says He's prayed that Peter's faith won't fail, which is interesting because Peter's faith doesn't fail, his courage is what fails.

1 Corinthians 10:12 NKJV (12) Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

- I believe that the Apostle Paul is echoing what Jesus was saying to Peter, "You are more likely all in the area of your greatest strength!"
- Louis Neely, of Warehouse Christian Ministries, said it better than I, this way: "In our greatest areas of strengths, come our greatest perils."
- I would submit that one of the reasons we, like Samson and Peter fall in our areas of greatest strength is because of our satanic pride.

Proverbs 16:18 NIV Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.